



Brownfields 2004 Grant Fact Sheet

Racine, WI

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, the President signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The City of Racine was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Racine is a city of 81,855 residents along the banks of Lake Michigan. Historically, the city's economy was centered around the manufacturing industry. Industry shifts and plant closings have negatively affected the city's economy. At 12.6 percent, Racine's unemployment rate is the highest in Wisconsin. The unemployment rate for the city's minorities is nearly four times higher than the unemployment rate for white residents. The homeless rate increased by 25 percent between 1998 and 2002. Many of the vacant and boarded-up industrial plants in the city are in residential neighborhoods. The abandoned brownfields have led to an increase in the crime



Assessment Grant

New
2004

\$200,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected the City of Racine to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Grant funds will be used to continue a comprehensive brownfields inventory, and perform Phase I and II assessments at some of the city's 300 identified brownfields. The city hopes to concentrate on the sites within economically distressed areas where manufacturing plant closings, poverty, and unemployment levels have had the greatest impact.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields

EPA Region 5 Brownfields Team

312-886-7576

<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: Racine, WI

262-636-9151

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, the activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

rate, a decrease in property values, vandalism, and human health risks from contamination. Brownfields redevelopment is expected to provide land for development, remove blighted buildings, return neighborhoods to a healthy environment, and ensure the city's long-term vitality.